

NEW YORK TIMES

21 JUL 1973

## Stennis Plans C.I.A. Charter Review

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 20 — Senator John C. Stennis, chair-Committee, said today that he view of the laws governing the Central Intelligence Agency in light of the agency's secret activities in Laos and its role in the Watergate scandal.

In a letter to Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, supporting the war-powers bill that Mr. Muskie was managing, Mr. Stennis said that had already instructed the Committee staff to begin preliminary work and that hearings would eventually be held on revising the agency's charter.

The Mississippi Democrat, still ailing from gunshot wounds suffered during a hold-up in January, announced the planned review of the C.I.A. charter as the committee reopened public hearings today with the appearance of several witnesses critical of President Nixon's nomination of William E. Colby as the new director of the C.I.A.

Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, the acting chairman of the committee, said during today's hearing that he believed a careful study should be made of the agency's

activities to insure that it devotes its chief emphasis to the gathering and interpretation of intelligence, rather than on the type of covert activity that led it to supervise what became known as "the secret war" in Laos against the Pathet Lao.

### 'Little Loopholes'

Senator Stennis said that "the experience of the C.I.A. in Laos, as well as more recent disclosure of matters here at home have caused me to definitely conclude that the entire C.I.A. act should be fully reviewed."

The National Security Act of 1947 created the agency. This act included what Senator Symington called "little loopholes" allowing it to perform various clandestine activities, some of which, like the Bay of Pigs in 1962, provoked controversy.

Mr. Colby, who formerly headed the agency's clandestine branch, has run into opposition from antiwar critics because of his role as head of the American advisory team with Operation Phoenix, the pacification program in South Vietnam that led to the killing of about 20,000 South Vietnamese, many of

them alleged by Vietcong agents.

Three witnesses at today's hearing criticized him for that work and expressed the hope that the committee would pursue the matter further.

They were Representative Robert F. Drinan, Democrat of Massachusetts, and David S. Harrington and K. Barton Osborn, former military participants in the Phoenix program.

In addition, Paul Sakwa, a former C.I.A. official, told the committee that he believed Mr. Colby was unfit for the job of director because of what he termed slanting of intelligence information in South Vietnam in the early nineteen-sixties. Another former C.I.A. officer, Samuel A. Adams, said he had nothing against Mr. Colby but thought the Phoenix program was a failure.

Mr. Symington, who expressed his general admiration of Mr. Colby despite the adverse comments about him, said the committee would probably invite him back next week to defend himself against the charges. Mr. Colby had testified in a public hearing on July 2, and later in a closed-door session.